

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TAGS: PFOR XF LE

SUBJ: FRANGIE'S VIEWS ON NEXT STEP

SUMMARY: PRES FRANGIE STATES: (1) US HAS ABOUT TWO MONTHS IN WHICH TO MAKE BREAK-THROUGH TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT BEFORE THERE IS FULLY UNITED ARAB STAND AGAINST US ECONOMIC INTERESTS; (2) SMALL UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE SHOULD BE STATIONED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON; (3) GOL WISHES PARTICIPATE IN EARLY STAGE OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING OCT 30 AT MY REQUEST FOR TOUR D'HORIZON, PRES FRANGIE DEVELOPED FOLLOWING IDEAS:

A. IT IS MORE IMPERATIVE THAN US REALIZES TO PROVE WE ARE DETERMINED TO BRING EARLY PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST. ARABS ARE DEEPLY ALIENATED BY OUR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND DISTRUSTFUL THAT US MAY LET SITUATION DRIFT AS WE HAVE SINCE 1967, WITHOUT PUSHING VIGOROUSLY FOR DEFINITIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. HE SAID NOW THAT EVEN CONSERVATIVE KING FEISAL HAS JOINED RANKS OF THOSE WILLING TO USE PETROLEUM WEAPON AGAINST US, WE WILL SEE ESCALATION OF ECONOMIC PRESSURES DESIGNED TO COMPEL US TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY SETTLEMENT, WITH ARAB STATES OUTBIDDING EACH OTHER TO SHOW WHAT GOOD ARABS THEY ARE. HE FEARS RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT HE CALLED
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"ARAB COMMON MARKET" WHERE THERE WOULD BE INCREASINGLY UNITED STAND AGAINST ALL US ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EAST UNLESS WE PRODUCE RESULTS SHOWING THAT WE ARE NOT ENGAGED ON CONTRIBUTION OF POST '67 POLICIES WHICH

CONTAINED PROMISES BUT NO RESULTS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PERHAPS USG DID NOT FULLY REALIZE MAGNITUDE OF THREAT FROM FUTURE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT WHICH HE LIKENED TO CHILD BEING HANDED LOADED GUN.

B. RE LEBANESE-ISRAELI FRONTIER, HE NOTED QUIET HAS REIGNED LAST TWO NIGHTS. HOWEVER, HE FEARED THIS MAY NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. BOTH TO FORESTALL FEDAYEEN CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS AND IMMODERATE ISRAELI RESPONSE, HE CONFIDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A UN FORCE STATIONED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. I EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROVE SUCH OPERATION WHICH BOTH COSTLY AND LOGISTICALLY DIFFICULT, GIVEN ITS PREOCCUPATION IN EGYPT WHERE THERE HAD BEEN MAJOR HOSTILITIES AS OPPOSED TO MINOR BORDER INCIDENTS IN LEBANON. FRANGIE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS, BUT SAID HE FELT GROUNDWORK SHOULD BE LAID NOW FOR LONGER RANGE UN PEACE-KEEPING MISSION HERE. THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID NEITHER GOL NOR US SHOULD INITIATE SUCH REQUEST, BUT INTIMATED HE HAD IN MIND APPROACHING INDIA AND AFRICAN MEMBERS OF SC TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS IN THIS SENSE. HE REQUESTED US NOT OPPOSE SUCH PROPOSAL IF HE IS ABLE TO SECURE SUPPORT OF NEUTRAL NATIONS ON COUNCIL. I NOTED THAT TO DO EFFECTIVE JOB, SUBSTANTIAL UN FORCES WOULD BE REQUIRED. FRANGIE REPLIED THAT INITIALLY HE WOULD BE QUITE HAPPY TO HAVE FORCE OF A COUPLE HUNDRED MEN CHARGED WITH PEACE-KEEPING RESPONSIBILITIES AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLE OBSERVER MANDATE OF PRESENT UNTSO TEAM. HE REASONED THAT IF SITUATION SHOULD HEAT UP AGAIN, ONCE PRINCIPLE OF PEACE-KEEPING UNIT IS ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO EXPAND SUCH FORCE TO SIZE REQUIRED TO MEET ANY GIVEN SITUATION. FRANGIE ARGUED THAT SMALL UNEF CONTINGENT ON LEBANESE SOIL ALONG ISRAELI FRONTIER WOULD BE STABILIZING ELEMENT DURING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

C. FRANGIE CONFIRMED (BEIRUT 12500) THAT GOL WISHES PARTICIPATE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS THEY SECRET

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HAVE ADVANCED BEYOND THE STAGE OF DEALING WITH CEASEFIRE LINES AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO PERMANENT BOUNDARIES WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN. HE REASONS THAT DISCUSSION OF ANY PERMANENT BOUNDARIES IN AREA MUST INCLUDE TRANSFORMATION OF PRESENT ARMISTICE LINE BETWEEN LEBANON AND ISRAEL INTO PERMANENT BOUNDARY AND APPRECIATES THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WILL QUICKLY INVOLVE QUESTION OF ARAB UNDERTAKINGS VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL, E.G., COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL, SUCH AS WOULD BE EXPECTED BY ISRAEL IN A PEACE TREATY AS QUID PRO QUO FOR WITHDRAWAL. ADDITIONAL ELEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL REMAIN CRITICAL FOR LEBANON, HE SAID, IS STATUS OF PALESTINIANS. BUFFUM

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